Chemical Industrial Estates

1088. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates across the country;

(b) if so, what would be the total cost of setting up these mega projects;

(c) how many states have shown interest in these projects; and

(d) the criteria for funding these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The need for setting up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates (MCIE) having comprehensive infrastructure facilities for the chemical industry has been felt. The cost of such an estate would depend on a number of factors including the size of the estate and the facilities proposed to be provided. So far seven states have shown interest in such a project. After considering all aspects of the issue and the advise of the Planning Commission, it has been decided that the proposal should be commended to private promoters and State Governments.

Penalising impact of subsidy cut on private fertilizer plants

1089. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses are being sustained by most of the public sector fertilizer plants year after year which were as high as Rs. 2,466 crore in the year 2001-02, as per the report of the Ministry; and

(b) whether Government are subsidizing such losses, at the same time trying to save much smaller amounts on subsidy, by penalizing the efficiency of private and cooperative sector fertilizer plants, under the garb of reducing subsidy, if so, how government expect to ensure continued health and viability of efficiently run fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There are 8 Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers.

Out of these, 5 companies including 4 sick companies, reported losses for 2001-02. The total loss reported by these companies for 2001-02 is Rs. 2142.48 crore.

(b) Parameters/norms, governing the determination of subsidy payments, are applied uniformly to all urea manufacturing units, whether they are in private sector, public sector or cooperative sector.

Revival of sick fertilizer units

†1090. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for revival of certain sick fertilizer companies in the public sector;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the amount required to make these companies productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government have decided to close down the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and Saladipura & Dehradun units of Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. Decision on revival of Project & Development India Ltd. and remaining units of Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. has been deferred by the Government.

Enforcement of New Pharmaceutical Policy

1091. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 2095, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the new pharmaceutical policy has been enforced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) A Public Interest Litigation in Karnataka High Court has resulted in an order dated 12.11.2002 which stops the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy-2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.